

Imperial Defence.

Introduction.

*"To all the loyal hearts who long
To keep our English Empire whole!
To all our noble sons, the strong
New England of the Southern pole!
To England under Indian skies,
To those dark millions of her realm!
To Canada, whom we love and prize,
Whatever statesmen hold the helm.
Hand all round!
God the traitor's hope confound!
To this great name of England drink, my friends,
And all her glorious Empire, round and round."*

—Tennyson.

In days gone by the argument was often heard on the political hustings that Canada did not owe any debt of gratitude to Britain. Never again can any responsible public man make such a statement. False to facts, false to the teachings of history, such an assertion has been forever buried by the terrible truths brought home to Canadians in the recent colossal upheaval of the civilized world. WE OWE ALL THAT WE ARE AND HAVE TO BRITAIN.

Her heroic work throughout many centuries, the wonderful achievements of so many of her brave and brilliant men, their sacrifices in blood and treasure, have reared the temple of our Liberty, have made this Dominion of Canada, and all that it stands for, possible.

What is it that has given and maintained for us the boon of self-government? What has given us the blessings of civil and religious liberty? What is it that maintains unimpaired our commercial prosperity and our financial stability? Why is it that merchant fleets from every nation and from every quarter of the globe come into our ports? What is it that gives to us this privileged position among the nations of the world?